

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008***

Present: Selectmen Rosanne Gilbert, Michael Woodworth, and Wes Moore; Police Chief Reed and Lt. Gould; Brian Knipstein; Clay Mitchell; Jamie Thompson; and Nancy Spencer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm by Wes Moore.

The Board of Selectmen gave thanks to Police Chief Reed who was on the telephone with PSNH for updates during the past storm and to the police officers for a fine job on house checks. The Fire Department volunteers also did a great job during the emergency.

The town will obtain pricing on a time clock for all regular employees. Nancy was asked to contact Advanced Data Systems for pricing and to see if it could interface with the town's accounting system. A reminder that all time cards must be signed by the employee was given to department heads.

Brian Knipstein advises that the Highway Department is still on target with the 2008 budget up to December 11th. FEMA funds may be available to reimburse the town for storm costs. Power is still out on Route 87, Old Lee Road, and other isolated areas.

Wes spoke with the property owner whose trees are blocking the view from Meadow Road onto Piscassic Road. The owner will look at the trees again and contact Wes with a decision as to whether or not they can be cut down.

Nancy spoke with a representative from PSNH. They expect to have electricity restored to 95% of residents and businesses by the end of Thursday, December 18th. Power will be restored to the remaining 5% as soon as possible, but it may take several additional days if they are located off of a main power line.

Clay Mitchell gave an update to the Board – the Capital Improvement Plan was adopted by the Planning Board. Clay has been drafting an Age Restricting Ordinance and will discuss it with the Planning Board this week. Under age 55 can visit, but cannot live in an age restricted building. Assisted living is different from age restrictive – the town would need to provide more police and fire department services. There are older people in town who would love to live in a place such as this in order to stay in Newfields. Clay will take a hard look at this for all industrial areas in town.

Wes advises that the State Fire Marshall will be coming to town on December 22nd in order to shut down ColorAll for life/safety issues.

As mentioned in previous minutes, Main Street Art is looking to lease the old post office building from the town for five years. They plan to spend \$30-35k in improvements in

lieu of rent. Any town owned property that is leased or rented is subject to Planning Board approval and site review. Wes will speak with the town counsel about this and also about two offers to purchase the building.

The proposed Vienneau subdivision has been reduced to 10 lots. It is clearly a better project, but has not been approved by the Planning Board.

The anemometer was taken down from the Water and Sewer Plant. It will be re-installed when a new pole and guy wires have been obtained.

Chief Reed informed the Board that there were 217 calls for service between 11pm and 7am from 1/1/08 through 12/16/08. A discussion took place about mutual aid and the least expensive way to provide 24 hour coverage. Michael wants the police department to have 24 hour coverage to protect the residents. The pros and cons of this should be debated at the Deliberative Session.

Wes reminded everyone that the budget for 2009 needs to be completed on or before January 6th. The Budget Hearing will take place on January 13th. The Deliberative Session has been moved to a Saturday in the hopes that more residents will be able to attend.

Jamie Thompson will e-mail the Budget Advisory Committee's recommendations and comments on the 2009 budget to the Selectmen. The Committee will meet at 7:00pm on January 6, 2009 for their final session.

Chief Reed advises that there was one business burglary related to the power outage – the alarm was off due to the power failure and most of the town has power restored by now. The Town Hall Emergency Shelter has been closed. The Emergency Management Department will submit invoices to FEMA. Chief Reed will look to see if the expendable trust fund for emergency management needs to be replenished.

Jamie Thompson suggested a Warrant Article be written for a generator large enough to accommodate the Town Hall. Chief Reed said he received pricing in the vicinity of \$20,000.

Maureen Smith is still working on the telephone system comparison to see if the town can save any money over the current system.

The Town will print 400 copies of the Town Report for 2008 and it will also be available on the Town's website.

The Town and School meeting dates from budget hearings to voting day were reviewed.

Checks were signed.

The NH Department of Safety announced a price increase effective 01/01/09.

Correspondence from Constance and Harold Pevear was read regarding charges from the Rockingham County Conservation District. The town has no control over these fees and they must be passed along to property owners.

A thank you letter was received from Granite State Quest with regard to their road race held last July.

The Rockingham Planning Commission sent a letter regarding a new map of waterbodies in town. Sue McKinnon will be asked about the map's whereabouts.

Correspondence from the Local Government Center was reviewed.

The proposed extension to the Bestway Disposal contract was tabled.

A revised Financial Report from the Cemetery Trustees was reviewed.

The Selectmen approved Building Inspector Larry Shaw's request to hire Jim Manfield to complete commercial electrical inspections on the Dunkin Donuts project. The property owner will be invoiced for the inspection costs and a letter to that effect was signed by the Selectmen.

As the town does not use Northeast Resource Recovery Association for recycling, we have declined their membership fee request.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was tabled.

Correspondence from Primex was tabled.

Nancy was asked to do an accounts payable run on December 19th along with payroll.

Wes made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9th, 2008 meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor. Rosanne left the meeting a little earlier due to illness.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant

